

CLAIMS

-
1. Small vehicle, e.g. caddie cart, with a body (1) and at least two wheels (2) each connected to the body via a stub axle (3, 4) attached to the body to same in articulated manner, wherein the stub axles (3, 4) are pivotable in at least a first position in which they are folded up against the body (1) and a second position in which the stub axles (3, 4) extend out from the body and which is defined as the travelling position of the small vehicle, **characterized in that** at least one spring (5) is provided which engages on one side at the body (1) and on the other at the stub axles (3, 4) via the hinged area and by its spring force alone holds the travelling position of the stub axles without additional radial reinforcements and stays.
2. Small vehicle according to claim 1, characterized in that the spring is secured to the body at one end and engages at the stub axle (3, 4) with the other end.
3. Small vehicle according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the spring rests with one end against a hinge part (10) firmly connected to the body.
4. Small vehicle according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that at least either the body (1) or one or both stub axles have at their sections adjoining the hinge joint a hollow section, in particular a pipe, in which the spring (5) is housed.
5. Small vehicle according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the spring is a gas-pressure spring (5) which can be locked at least in the travelling position of the stub axles (3, 4).
6. Small vehicle according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the spring engages, at a section of the stub axle, projecting beyond the hinge joint as seen from the wheel (2), of the stub axle, with same.
7. Small vehicle according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that there is provided in the hinged area between body and stub axles a mechanical stop which, in addition to the spring, limits a travelling position unfolded to the maximum of the stub axles.
8. Small vehicle according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the gas-pressure spring is arranged centrally in the lower area of the body and secured by one end to the body or to a hinge part (10) rigidly connected to the body, wherein one end each of the gas-pressure spring (5) is connected via a cable pull (6), to the associated stub axles (3, 4), wherein the cable pull (6) is guided at a distance from the hinge axle over a guide block arranged beyond the hinge axle or a pulley (6) each attached to the hinge end of the stub axle (3, 4) and secured to the stub axle (3, 4).

9. Small vehicle according to one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the body consists of two substantially parallel tube parts rigidly connected to each other, each of which is connected in their lower area via a hinge part (10) to one of the preferably tubular stub axles (3, 4).
- 5 10. Small vehicle according to claim 9, characterized in that there is arranged between the two outer pipes (102, 103) of the body (1) a third pipe which serves as a guide pipe for a steering rod (11) housed therein in the manner of a telescope.
- 10 11. Small vehicle according to claim 9 or 10, characterized in that each of the two outer pipes has in its lower area a recess to house the folded-in stub axles (3, 4).
12. Small vehicle according to one of claims 9 to 11, characterized in that the gas-pressure spring is arranged in the lower area of the third pipe and has a valve which can be actuated by pushing the steering rod (11) into the third pipe.
- 15 13. Small vehicle according to one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that each of the stub axles (3, 4) is pretensioned by an additional spring (25) in the direction of the folded-in position.
- 20 14. Small vehicle according to claim 13, characterized in that the additional spring acts on the hinge section of the stub axles (3, 4) via a Bowden wire (26) and a guide roll.
15. Small vehicle according to one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that there is provided at the steering rod a removable, asymmetrical handle that can also be mounted in at least two positions rotated by 180 °.
- 25 16. Small vehicle according to claim 14 or 15, characterized in that the handle has digital control elements and a transmitting coil with which digital signals can be transmitted to a neighbouring receiver coil which is arranged on the steering rod.
- 30 17. Small vehicle according to one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that the wheels are attached to the stub axles removable via a quick-release coupling.
18. Small vehicle according to one of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that each of the wheels has its own drive motor with an individual power supply and individual control electronics.
- 35 19. Small vehicle according to claim 18, characterized in that the motors are servomotors and have an encoder for determining and setting their rotation speed.